

H.R. 712 AND H.R. 1155

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this week, the House considered H.R. 712, the Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act, and H.R. 1155, the SCRUB Act, pieces of legislation with the primary purpose of dismantling and undermining the federal rulemaking and regulatory process. I voted against both of these bills.

Throughout my career, as an administrator and policymaker at the local, state, and federal levels, I have often seen the value of common-sense regulations that save lives. I have also seen the challenges associated with cumbersome regulations that are difficult to comply with.

There are ways to make some regulations more efficient and easier to navigate, but we must do so in a way that protects public health, maintains our environmental protections, and ensures fair market interactions. These bills, however, are far from the mark.

They both would implement a "cut-go" approach that would require every new rule to come with the removal of another, even in cases of emergency or imminent harm to public health. This approach is absurd. Regulations often build on each other, evolving and sometimes rapidly responding to emerging challenges, and this type of restriction will only threaten the process and undermine the ability of agencies to effectively protect public health, public safety, the environment and more.

The Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act, through its barriers to consent decrees, through its imposition of a moratorium on implementation until a rule is available online for six months, and through its requirement that all rules be summarized in 100 words online, regardless of how complex, only

adds additional, unnecessary burdens on the rulemaking process, without actually improving it.

The underlying assumption behind these bills is that regulations are unwelcome and burdensome on communities and the economy. I frequently, however, hear from industry in my community and around the country about the importance of many government regulations, in equalizing the playing field and setting important guidelines based on science that allow them to be good actors in their communities.

There are certainly outdated regulations, and there is always room for greater efficiencies, and the creation of more performance based, flexible regulatory processes. These bills however, will not get us closer to that goal, and are dangerous to public safety, to health and the environment.

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE
DALLAS THEODORE YATES

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the memory of a godly and enterprising soul from Florida: my uncle, the Honorable Dallas Theodore Yates.

Mr. Yates, affectionately known as "Uncle Dallas," was born in Caryville, Florida on September 22, 1919. From a young age, he was a person of deep and abiding faith, giving his life to Christ at the age of eight while attending Saint Mary's African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church. In 1951, Uncle Dallas would go on to help establish the Gregg Chapel A.M.E. Church in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Later, he moved to south Florida with his wife, Jane Eva Davis Yates, where they reared their children: Phyllis Rose Bryant Gilley, Raymond Lawrence Bryant, Sr., Harold Dwight Yates,

Dallasteen Joy Yates and Jeffrey Arles Yates. There, in 1957, he entered into Christian fellowship with New Bethel A.M.E. Church. Over the course of his tenure at the church, he held the positions of Trustee Board Chairman Pro Tempore, Steward Board Chairman Pro Tempore, District Steward, as well as Annual Conference Delegate, all while giving generously to support the church's maintenance and services. In 1998, after many years of faithfully serving the Lord, he became a "licensed Exhorter of the word of God."

Throughout his life, he was known for his entrepreneurial spirit and industrious nature. While living in Fort Walton Beach, Florida as a young man, he owned and operated the "Chicken in the Basket Restaurant" and was the co-owner of the "Silver Cab Company" with his brother Charlie Yates. He also owned and developed residential properties in the city. In 1962, he moved to Indian River County, Florida and became the first black law enforcement officer and Deputy Sheriff in the county. He is said to have been known for his professionalism and ability to deescalate situations. In the 1970s, after honorably serving Indian River County, he and his wife established D & J Citrus Inc., a fruit harvesting and packing company. He also established the Yates Supermarket, which was family-owned and operated into the 1980s.

I am blessed to have the opportunity to pay tribute to the memory of an exceptional man: my uncle, the Honorable Dallas Theodore Yates, who, despite facing what many would describe as insurmountable obstacles, accomplished his dreams of becoming a businessman and a trailblazer in law enforcement, while remaining a man of faith until his passing on December 30, 2015 at the age of 96.

Mr. Speaker, I shall remember Uncle Dallas as a devoted husband, a dedicated father, and a mentor who provided me with a sense of direction, which has led me to the Congress of the United States of America.